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Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, affective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

| Application Number | 08/792,468 RCE | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Filing Date | January 31, 1997 7/3 | | |
| First Named Inventor | SHIMIZU, et al | | |
| Group Art Unit | 2876 | | |
| Name of Examiner | M. Lee | | |
| Attorney Docket No. | 940494B | | |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat

| 1. | Sul | omissi | on Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| a. | × | Previ | iously submitted | | | | |
| | i. | | Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on | | | | |
| | ii. | × | Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on October 15, 1998. | | | | |
| - | III. | | Other | | | | |
| b. | · 🗵 | . En | closed | | | | |
| | i. | | Amendment/Reply | | | | |
| | ii. | | Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) | | | | |
| | , iii. | | Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) | | | | |
| | iv. | × | Other Preliminary Amendment | | | | |
| 2. | Mis | scella | neous | | | | |
| a. | □ s | Suspen | sion of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required) | | | | |
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| 3. | Fe | es Ti | ne RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed. | | | | |
| a. | ⊠ . | | rector is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit nt No. 01-2340 | | | | |
| | i. | ⊠ R(| E fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) | | | | |
| | ii. | | tension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 17) | | | | |
| | iii. | □ Ot | her | | | | |
| b. | × | Check | in the amount of \$740.00 is n I sed. | | | | |

FROM ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN

REQUEST F CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.

940494B

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name

William L. Brooks

Registration No.

34,129 (atty/agent)

Signature

Willsburk

Date May 20, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mall in an envelop addressed to Commissioner for Patents, BOX RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature